SN: 09/916,612
AU: 2875
John H. Lynn, Tel. 714-641-4712

REMARKS

Please note that the undersigned attorney's address is now Suite C103, 2915 Redhill Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. The telephone and facsimile numbers have not changed.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and entry of the foregoing amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.116. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6–9 and 12 remain in the case. This amendment cancels claims 2 and 11. This amendment complies with formal requirements and includes a few minor changes to the claims to clarify the distinctions between the invention and the prior art.

New FIGS. 5 and 6 are submitted herewith in compliance with the Examiner's requirements regarding the drawings. The specification has been amended where appropriate to refer to FIGS. 4-6.

The key to the present invention lies in the metallization layer that is coated onto the frame for the dual purposes of (a) providing an electrode connection and (b) providing an hermetic seal. The present invention is directed to a thin metallization coated on the frame around the conductance bore. The coated metallization layer also provides a solder sealed hermetic bond to a metallized getter housing. All ring laser gyroscopes require electrical connections and hermeticity. It is the method of accomplishing the electrical connection and hermeticity that is the basis of the present invention. Neither method of the present application (metallized coating layer also serving as hermetic solder seal) is disclosed or suggested by Podgorski. Podgorski does not address the manner of providing an hermetic seal).

The key to the Podgorski patent is the fine screen used as both a barrier to getter material that would otherwise enter the internal gyroscope cavities and also as an electrode (since it is metal). It is not a "metallization layer formed on the frame" as the words used in the rejection state. Podgorski does not call it a metallization layer and he does not use the word "formed." His invention cannot have a metallization layer formed to the frame because it is critical for the metal component to be a discrete metal part with tiny holes to act as the screen (barrier) entirely covering the bore opening, not a coated layer around it. This Podgorski component (not metallization layer) is then assembled (not formed) to the rest of the getter/housing/frame unit.

Podgorski does not disclose a metallization layer formed on the surface of the frame. The wording is critical. Podgorski has a barrier screen (which could be metal) physically attached to the frame (no details on this). This screen attached to the housing

and the frame does not anticipate or render obvious the invention the deposited metallization layer around the bore for electrical contact/hermetic sealing as claimed. Podgorski does not disclose at all that the getter well is sealed to the metallization layer around the bore. He does mention that the end cover is attached to the housing (welding is his example), and then the assembled unit is to be "attached to the block by suitable means." Simply saying "attached" does not address the critical requirements of hermetic sealing provided by the claimed invention.

The word "structure" itself as mentioned in paragraph 8 of the official action indicates how it would not be obvious to one having ordinary skill to extend the Podgorski "structure" to the deposited thin film. Podgorski must have "structure" to accomplish the barrier screening and this is "assembled" to other components. It involves parts and items and pieces. It is not obvious that a physical "structure" covering a bore for the purpose of screening out getter material extends to a thin film deposition around a bore for the purpose of electrical connection and hermetic sealing with no mention of a getter material barrier/screen.

It is a key element that the present disclosure uses the word "layer" and Podgorski does not (even though the official action suggests that he does) because the deposited metallization layer serving the dual purpose of electrical connection/hermetic sealing of getter housing is a non-obvious difference from Podgorski's screen component.

It would indeed be obvious that a metal part could be used for electrical connection. What is not obvious is that a deposited metallization around an internal bore (no "parts," no assembly, no manual operation) is somehow an extension of the getter material screen that covers the internal bore as a discrete component.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as stated at Paragraph 14 of the official action. The ultra-thin, automatically deposited layer is not an obvious extension of a discrete physical component that is fabricated and then assembled manually to a housing as disclosed by Podgorski. Upon comparing the present invention with Podgorski it is not obvious that the entire structure could be replaced with a metallized coating because that would eliminate the entire purpose of the Podgorski getter barrier/screen.

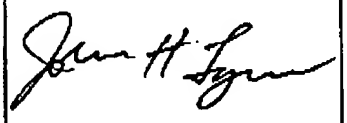
Regarding Paragraph 23 of the official action, Podgorski does not use the word "layer" which is crucial to the claimed invention. He uses the term "end cover," which is physical component whose purpose is to effect a getter material barrier. Podgorski does not disclose that metallization layer extends around the electrode bore. What he says is that the end cover "completely cover(s) the passageway into cavity". The complete coverage of the

passageway is to block out (screen) the getter material particulate from entering the frame so the passageway must be covered. The present invention addresses a metallization layer that is formed on the frame itself (not a component that is subsequently attached to the frame) and this layer goes around the bore but does not cover the bore. The differences between a finely machined component that goes on top of the internal bore to act as a barrier for fine getter particulate and a sputtered metal layer that is applied to the frame around the bore for the purpose of electrical connection/hermetic seal is a very large difference and the latter is not in any way an obvious extension of the former.

Regarding Paragraphs 37 and 38 of the official action, it is agreed that Podgorski has broad mentions of several steps involved in constructing a ring laser. However, the broad statement that the getter/spring/housing/end cover structure is to be "attached" to the frame by "any suitable means" does not make the present invention obvious. The suggestion that "any suitable means" as understood suggests a thin film metallization deposited on a frame with complete disregard for any kind of getter screen is not supportable conclusion.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Name Address	**John H. Lynn** **Suite C103** **2915 Redhill Avenue**				
City	**Costa Mesa**	State	**CA**	ZIP	**92626**
Country	**USA**	Telephone	**714-641-4712**	FAX	**714-432-0722**
Name	**John H. Lynn**		Registration No.:	**29235**	
Signature			Date	December 5, 2003	